



KRISTIN SAKODA, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

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February 08, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO DEACCESSION
FORMER FLORENCE LIBRARY LOT CIVIC ARTWORK
(SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) recommends approval to deaccession a County owned artwork formerly located at the former County library in the City of Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in this letter and the record.
2. Approve deaccession of the artwork "El Movimiento" by Oscar Magallanes, created for the Florence Library in 2012, from the County Civic Art Collection.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the deaccession is exempt from the CEQA and will deaccession the artwork from the County Civic Art Collection.

Background

The artwork was installed in 2012 on the south wall of the Florence Avenue Lot, Florence Library, located at 1616 East Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, in the Second Supervisorial District. The mural was painted directly onto the concrete of the parking lot walls and included two metal elements mounted and secured onto its wall. The artist was made aware of the building's eventual demolition when he was commissioned in 2012, anticipating that the mural would last three to five years. Consequently, the artist made the metal components of the artwork detachable.

On July 10, 2018, the Board adopted a resolution approving the acquisition, construction, and development of Florence Apartments located at 1600-1616 East Florence Avenues in unincorporated Florence-Firestone. The Florence Library was demolished in June 2019, and the parking lot was demolished in April 2021. The artwork proposed for deaccession was located at the former Florence Library located at 1610 Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90001 which is on the site of the new development and was within the boundary for demolition.

In 2004, the Board approved the Civic Art Policy for the County, which authorized Arts and Culture to establish procedures to implement the Civic Art Policy. Under the Civic Art Procedures, first adopted by the Board in 2004, and last amended by Arts and Culture on September 10, 2020, the County retains the right to deaccession any Civic Art on County property if the site for the artwork will be destroyed or altered in a significant way. In accordance with the Civic Art Procedures, deaccession of an artwork from the County's Civic Art Collection requires review by County Counsel, recommendation by the Director of Arts and Culture, and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

In accordance with the Civic Art Procedures and the Agreement with the artist, Arts and Culture staff consulted County Counsel and sent a written notice by registered mail dated April 20, 2021, to artist Oscar Magallanes. The letter informed the artist of the demolition of the Florence Library building and lot, where the mural was situated.

Arts and Culture determined that the mural could not be relocated because of its site specificity. However, the metal components of the artwork are removable and were offered to the artist. The artist picked up the two metal elements on April 23, 2021. On April 27, 2021, the civic artwork "El Movimiento" by Oscar Magallanes was demolished along with Florence Library.

On July 13, 2021, the Director of Arts and Culture recommended the deaccession of the civic artwork "El Movimiento" by Oscar Magallanes from the Civic Art Collection and recommends your Board approves deaccession of the artwork. Upon your Board's approval, the artwork will be deaccessioned from the County Civic Art Collection.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal II, which directs that our increasingly dynamic, and complex environment, challenges our collective abilities to respond to public needs and expectations. We want to be an innovative, flexible, effective, and transparent partner focused on advancing the common good.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will have no impact on the County General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This action is recommended as a result of the Board's resolution for Florence Multifamily Housing adopted on July 10, 2018 and in accordance with the Civic Art Procedures and the County's Agreement No. CA 11-2166 with Oscar Magallanes dated December 12, 2011.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the actions will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The deaccession and donation relieves the County of future maintenance costs, storage costs, and liability of the artwork.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, return the adopted, stamped Board letter to Arts and Culture, Civic Art at 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800, Los Angeles CA 90017.

Should you have any questions, please contact Grace Ramirez Gaston, Director, Civic Art Division, Arts and Culture, via email at GRamirezGaston@arts.lacounty.gov or (213) 512-8784.

Respectfully submitted,



NULLKRISTIN SAKODA

Director

KS:GRG:lv

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



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Board of Supervisors

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MEMO

Date: July 13, 2021

To: Kristin Sakoda, Director, Arts and Culture

Cc: Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy
Megan Moret, Board Liaison

From: Grace Ramirez Gaston, Director, Civic Art *geg*
Laleña Vellanoweth, Conservation & Collections Manager

Re: Deaccession of *El Movimiento* by Oscar Magallanes,
Florence Library Lot, Second Supervisorial District

Civic Art recommends the deaccession of the site-specific mural *El Movimiento*, meaning "the movement" in Spanish, by artist Oscar Magallanes. The mural was installed in 2012 on the south wall of the Florence Avenue Lot, Florence Library, located at 1616 East Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, in the Second Supervisorial District.

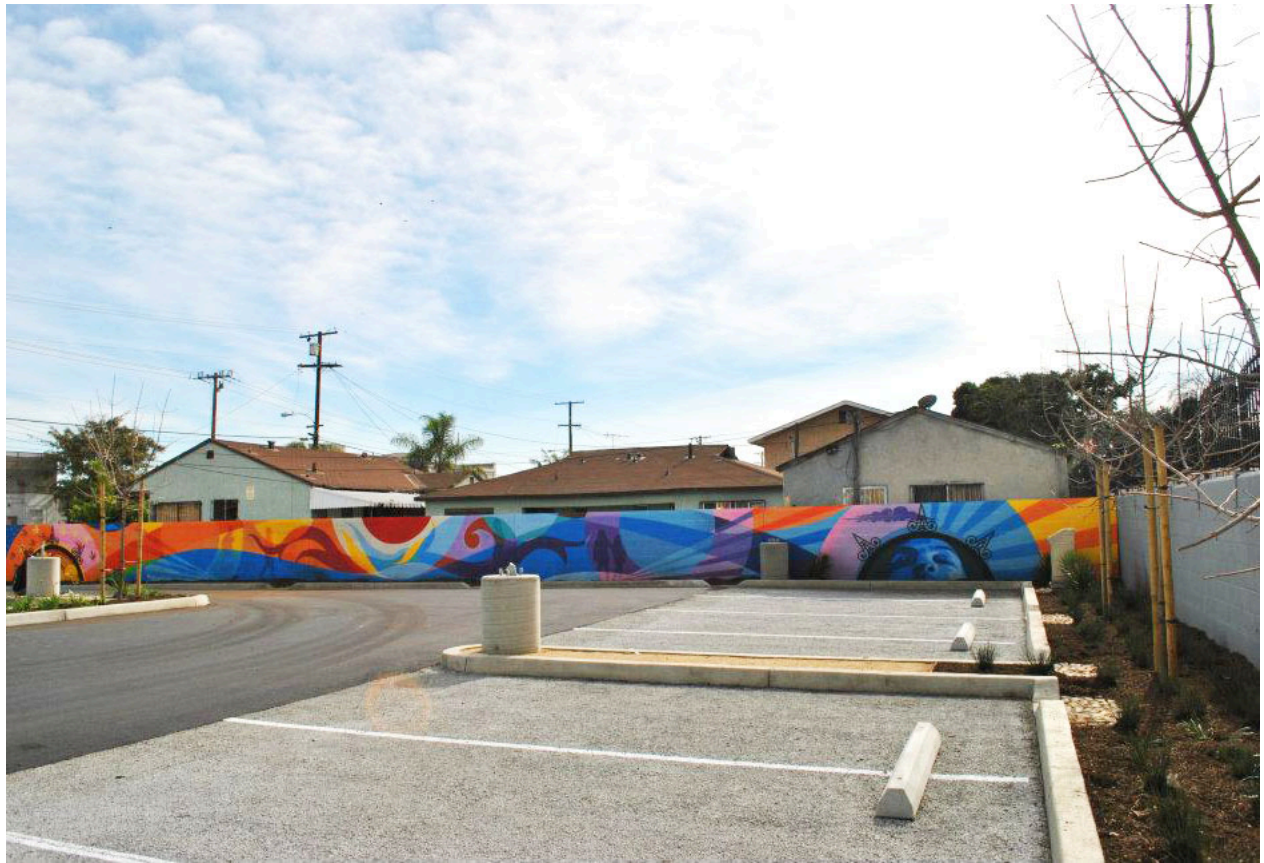
The Florence Library was demolished in June 2019, and the parking lot was demolished in the Spring of 2021. In accordance with the Civic Art Procedures, the County retains the right to deaccession any civic art on County property if the site of the artwork will be destroyed or altered in a significant way. Deaccessions require approval by the Director of Arts and Culture and the Board of Supervisors.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Grace Ramirez Gaston, gramirezgaston@arts.lacounty.gov

Proposed Deaccession of *El Movimiento* Mural at Florence Library lot, Second Supervisorial District

Report prepared by: Laleña Vellanoweth

Date: April 21, 2021



Recommendation

Civic Art Division (Civic Art) recommends the deaccession of the mural *El Movimiento*, 2012, by artist Oscar Magallanes on the south wall of the Florence Avenue Lot, 1616 East Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.

Artwork Description

Artists: Oscar Magallanes, assisted by Juan Carlos De Luna and El Mac
Title: *El Movimiento*
Medium: Acrylic on concrete
Date: 2012
Dimensions: 112 feet in length

Reason for Deaccession

The Florence Library was demolished in June 2019 for the construction of a new mixed-use affordable housing development. The parking lot will be demolished in the Spring of 2021. The artwork is customized to the Florence Library parking lot site and painted directly onto the concrete of the parking lot walls. Civic Art determined the mural will not be relocated because of its site specificity.

Actions Taken by Civic Art

The artist was made aware of the building's eventual demolition when he was commissioned in 2012, anticipating that the mural would last between three to five years. Consequently, the artist made the metal components of the artwork removable.

In April 2021, the artist was sent a registered letter, per the Civic Art Procedures for deaccessions, notifying him of the demolition of the parking lot and removal of the metal components to be picked up by the artist.

On May 20, 2021, at the Arts and Culture Deputies Meeting, Civic Art presented this recommendation to the Arts deputies. There were no objections to the request.

Deaccession Procedures

In accordance with the Deaccessioning Procedure in the Civic Art Procedures, adopted by the Arts Commission, the County retains the right to deaccession any civic art on County property if the site for the artwork will be destroyed or altered in a significant way.

Deaccession and removal of an artwork from the County's Civic Art Collection requires review by County Counsel, approval by the Director of Arts and Culture, and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Next Steps

- Civic Art has discussed the recommendation to deaccession the artwork with County Counsel
- Civic Art to recommend an action of deaccessioning with Director of Arts and Culture
- Board of Supervisors to decide on recommendation at Board Hearing. Date to be determined.

Background

Oscar Magallanes was selected and commissioned in 2012 to paint a temporary mural for the Florence-Firestone community at the site of the Florence Library. His mural, *El Movimiento*, reflects the progression of a day in Florence-Firestone, from sunrise on the east end of the wall to sunset on the west. Florence Avenue is one of eight primary east-west thoroughfares in Florence-Firestone. The energy of motorists, bus commuters and Metro Blue Line rail riders moving in and out of the area is depicted in the artwork's flowing lines. The lush oranges and blues reflect the community's vibrancy while connecting viewers to the adjacent mural, which was located on the façade of Florence Library by artist Ernesto de la Loza.

About the Artist

Oscar Magallanes was raised in Duarte, just a few miles from Azusa, California. His artwork is heavily influenced by the cultural and social elements of his upbringing. Magallanes founded the design firm Arango Designs in 2007 based on the principle of education and empowerment through art and design. He has been commissioned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Los Angeles Mayor's office, and Cesar Chavez Foundation. Magallanes has curated, guest curated and co-curated exhibitions at Pomona Arts Colony and Self-Help Graphics & Art. He continues to create and exhibit his artwork from his studio in Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles, with his design firm, 3B Collective. Magallanes' most recent artwork is a mural in East LA commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium.